



Frequently Asked Questions

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The Greenwood City Council approved a billing rate change effective January 2013. Below are some frequently asked questions designed to provide further explanation of this utility.

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How will I be billed and can I still pay ahead?

Beginning in 2013, the Stormwater Department will bill quarterly. First quarterly bills will be mailed in March, covering January, February and March bill periods. You will be able to pay the year in full.

Will the rate be billed to City Property?

Yes, City, County, State and Federal property within the City of Greenwood is subject to the stormwater service charge. However, publicly owned roadways, runways and taxiways will not be billed.

How is the rate and billing different from the interim rate and billing?

The rate is based on the amount of impervious surface area on each parcel or property. Impervious area collects rainfall and causes runoff. Individual bills will be based on impervious surface area. Residential properties will continue to be billed \$5 per month for stormwater services while non-residential property bills will be calculated by a measurement of the impervious surface located on the property.

Does the new stormwater rate replace the interim rate?

YES. In April 2012 the City Council approved the interim rate as a means to provide funding for addressing high priority stormwater issues until the final rate was approved. The City has completed a rate study to determine the new stormwater rate, and the City Council approved this rate, effective January 1, 2013.

What is an Equivalent Residential Unit and the billing rate?

The Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is defined as the approximate average impervious surface area on a residential property. The City measured a sample of randomly selected residential properties and determined the ERU to be approximately 2,800 square feet. The ERU is considered the base billing unit and is used in the billing calculation for properties. The billing rate is \$5.00 per ERU per month.

What is impervious surface?

Impervious surface areas such as concrete and paved surfaces, rooftops and compacted gravel cause rainfall to collect and runoff rather than allow it to soak into the ground. This runoff collects and runs in the City's stormwater system to local creeks, streams and rivers.

How will bills be affected by this billing rate?

This billing rate will be used to calculate the stormwater service charge based on the amount of impervious surface area located on the property. Residential properties will be billed 1 ERU per month which is similar to the interim rate. Non-Residential properties such as commercial, industrial, institutional, municipal, and agricultural will be billed 1 or multiple ERUs per month based on the total



impervious area located on the property. Non-Residential property containing impervious surface area will not be billed less than 1 ERU per month.

EXAMPLE: Commercial property with 11,200 Sq. ft. of impervious surface:

$11,200 \div 2,800 = 4 \text{ ERU}$

$4 \text{ ERU} \times \$5 = \$20/\text{month}$

How do I know if my property is Residential?

The Board will consider your property residential if it has a single structure on it with four or less dwelling (spaces intended for living) units located in it and the property is not being used for other additional purposes such as small business and/or agricultural production.

Where does the money from my bill go?

Stormwater funding will be used to begin addressing the priority drainage and area flooding problems in the City, carryout operations and maintenance of the existing public stormwater system, and maintain the EPA and IDEM regulatory requirements for the City. The City has identified and proposed a 10 year \$19 million capital improvement plan for completing stormwater improvement projects throughout the City.

What is this bill I received?

On April 2, 2012, the City passed Ordinance 12-11 creating a local Stormwater Utility.

Why was the utility created?

Unmanaged stormwater carries pollution and can threaten bodies of water, recreational areas, drinking water, and the plants, people, and animals who depend on clean water.

State and federal statutes, including the Clean Water Act, mandate stormwater management. In recent years, Greenwood has spent significant money in stormwater management from its general budget. It can no longer continue to do so without threatening vital services such as police, fire, and street maintenance.

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